

# First record of the Shy Albatross *Diomedea cauta* for the Brazilian coast

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The Shy Albatross *Diomedea cauta* is widespread in southern oceans, occurring only accidentally in the northern hemisphere (west coast of North America and Red Sea, *D. c. cauta*). The post-breeding range of the species comprises the eastern and western coasts of South America. There are records off the west coast of *D. c. salvini* up to 5°S and of *D. c. cauta* up to 23°S, and off the east coast of *D. c. cauta* nearly up to 35°S (Harrison 1987). This species has not been cited for the Brazilian coast by Pinto (1978) nor by Sick (1986). *D. c. cauta* breeds in the Bass Strait, southern Tasmania and Auckland Is. (August to April); *D. c. salvini* at Bounty and Snares Is. (August to April); and *D. c. eremita*, still not recorded from the American Continent, at Chatham Is. (Harrison 1987).

The Brazilian specimen, a young female, was found dead ashore near São Simão Village (30°55'S, 50°45'W), Mostardas District, Rio Grande do Sul State, in April 1990. It was in good condition and had the following measurements: wingspan 2370 mm, wing 580 mm, tarsus 95.7 mm, culmen 129 mm, depth of bill at base 49.2 mm.

The specific status was determined both by plumage pattern and bill shape (Dabbene 1926, Murphy 1936, Harrison 1983, 1987), but the subspecies could not be determined for certain, as the juveniles of both subspecies occurring in South America are very similar. The underwing pattern of the Brazilian specimen resembles that described for *D. c. salvini* by Harrison (1983, 1987) and Harper & Kinsky (1978), but a comparison of skins would be essential.

The bird did not show any fat deposition, and the stomach contents consisted only of one otolith of *Porichthys porosissimus* (Batrachoididae), a nocturnal fish with photophores.

The specimen is now in the collection of the Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, under the number MN36922.

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## Notes on a hitherto unknown specimen of *Neolesbia nehrkorni* (Berlepsch, 1887; Trochilidae) with a discussion of the hybrid origin of this 'species'

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In 1887, Berlepsch reported on a magnificent ("überaus prächtiges") specimen of hummingbird that his friend Adolph Nehr Korn from Riddagshausen (near Braunschweig, Germany) had recently received in a collection of about 200 skins from 'Bogotá' (Colombia; see Chapman 1917: 14). He described it as a new species, *Cyanolesbia nehrkorni*, in a publication treating hummingbirds from Bogotá collections (Berlepsch 1887a). Later he provided a detailed description of *Cyanolesbia nehrkorni*, and added a colour plate (Berlepsch 1887b). However, in both papers he offered doubts concerning the generic affinity of the new species because it differed distinctly from the other two species of the genus, which are now treated as *Aglaiocercus kingi* and *A. coelestis* (e.g. Wolters 1975–82, Hilty & Brown 1986). Subsequently, Salvin (1892) placed it in a monotypic genus, *Neolesbia*.

*Neolesbia nehrkorni* is a medium-sized hummingbird with a predominantly blue plumage. The bill is slightly decurved and of about the same length as the head. The tail is long and deeply forked, the rectrices blue with a violet sheen. There are some greenish-blue feathers in the head, neck and back. Forehead and crown are lighter blue-coloured than the general plumage.

### Specimens

Whereas Berlepsch (1887a, 1887b) mentioned a unique adult male that he had in his private collection, Salvin (1892) stated that the species is "known from two specimens. That submitted to me is of the usual Bogota make, and was sent to Count Berlepsch by Mr Nehr Korn, who possesses the second specimen." Simon (1921: 306) indicated that only a single specimen is known, whereas Berlioz & Jouanin (1944) added that according to Salvin (1892) there may be a second individual. Peters (1945: 49) also mentioned two specimens.